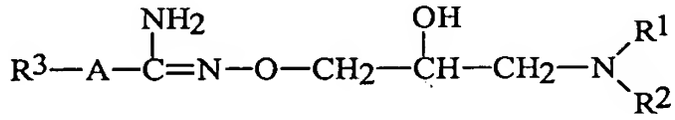
Claims

1. A method for preventing or treating actinic keratosis comprising applying to the affected skin surface an amount of a composition effective for preventing or treating actinic keratosis, said composition comprising a hydroximic acid derivative of the formula



I

wherein

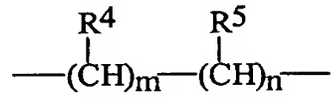
R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group or a phenyl group, optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a phenyl group; or

R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5 to 8 membered saturated or unsaturated ring that optionally comprises one or more further nitrogen or oxygen atoms, wherein said ring can be optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group or a pyridyl group wherein said groups can optionally be substituted by one or more halo atoms or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups;

A is a group of the formula



a

wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

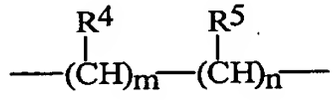
R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2; and

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2;

or a physiologically acceptable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein in the compound of the formula (I) R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino group, R^3 is a pyridyl or a phenyl group, A represents a group of the formula a,



a

wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

and m and n have a value of 0.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is O-(3-piperidino-2-hydroxy-1-propyl)nicotinic amidoxime or an acid salt thereof.

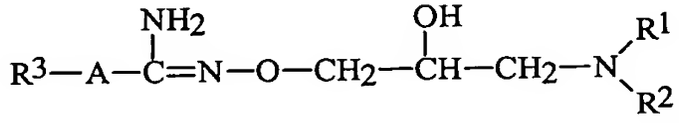
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 0.1 to 30% by mass of the composition.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

8. A method for preventing or treating a pathological condition of the skin selected from the group consisting of dry skin, polymorphic light exanthema, toxic photopathology, photo-allergy, solar atrophy, stria migrans, elastoma diffusum, X-ray dermatitis, gouty polychondritis and decubitis ulcer, comprising applying to the affected skin surface an amount of a composition effective for preventing or treating said pathological condition of the skin, said composition comprising a hydroximic acid derivative of the formula



I

wherein

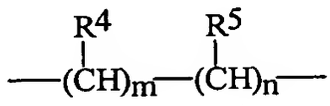
R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group or a phenyl group, optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a phenyl group; or

R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5 to 8 membered saturated or unsaturated ring that optionally comprises one or more further nitrogen or oxygen atoms, wherein said ring can be optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group or a pyridyl group wherein said groups can optionally be substituted by one or more halo atoms or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups;

A is a group of the formula



a

wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

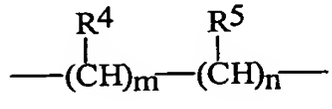
R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2; and

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2;

or a physiologically acceptable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein in the compound of the formula (I) R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino group, R^3 is a pyridyl or a phenyl group, A represents a group of the formula a,



a

wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

and m and n have a value of 0.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is O-(3-piperidino-2-hydroxy-1-propyl)nicotinic amidoxime or an acid salt thereof.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the active ingredient is present at 0.1 to 30% by mass of the composition.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.